

CITY & BOROUGH OF PETERBOROUGH.

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I.

# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

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Wm. JOHNSTONE, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

# CITY & BOROUGH OF PETERBOROUGH.

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## Health Committee, 1921-22.

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*Chairman :*

Alderman WHITSED.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Ald. C. T. VERGETTE.

THE MAYOR (ex-officio).

Alderman LAMPLUGH.

Councillor MANSFIELD.

Alderman RISELEY.

Councillor NICHOLLS.

Councillor FLETCHER.

Councillor PALMER.

Councillor FARROW.

Councillor WRIGHT.

Councillor FISHER.

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## Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

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The above Committee, and

THE MAYORESS (ex-officio),

Mrs. KNEE,

Mrs. NICHOLLS,

Mrs. BARTON,

Mrs. H. S. COLMAN,

DR. PATERSON.

# Staff of the Public Health Department.

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**Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.**

WM. JOHNSTONE, M.D., D.P.H.

**Sanitary Inspectors.**

*Chief*

J. L. SEDEN, Cert. R. San. I.

*Assistant*

EDWARD NOBLE.

**Health Visitor.**

ELLEN MARY TAMPLIN, A. R. San. I., C.M.B. Cert.,  
H.V.'s Cert., M. and C.W. Cert., R. San. I.

**School Nurse.**

GERTRUDE PAMELY, C.G.T., Cert F.N. Association.

**Clerks.**

*Chief:* H. A. GOODACRE,      *Junior:* R. E. GROOM.

**Inspector under Food and Drugs Acts and Inspector of Meat.**

J. L. SEDEN, Cert. R. San. I.

**Matron Borough Isolation Hospital.**

ADA H. GREEN.

**Public Analyst.**

WM. ELBORNE, M.A.

# CITY AND BOROUGH OF PETERBOROUGH.

## Annual Health Report, 1921.

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1921.

Area of Borough in Acres	...	...	...	...	1,878
Population 1921 :—(a) enumerated	...	...	...	...	35,533
(b) adjusted	...	...	...	...	35,630
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	9,294
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£211,615
Sum represented by a penny rate (reassessment)	...	...	...	...	£773

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births {	legitimate 735	366	369	
	illegitimate 26	15	11	Birth rate <b>21.35</b> per 1,000 pop ;
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	<b>761</b>	381	380	
Deaths	... <b>401</b>	186	215	Death rate <b>11.25</b> per 1,000 pop ;
No. of women dying in or in consequence of parturition.		(a) from sepsis	...	Nil
		(b) other causes	...	3
Deaths of infants (under one year old)				
	(a) legitimate 50.	(b) illegitimate 8.	Total 58.	
Total infant mortality per 1,000 births	...	...	...	<b>76.2</b>
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1 (female)
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years old)	...	...	...	12 (5 m. 7 f.)



## 2. Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during 1921.

Birth rate per 1,000 population ;

<b>PETERBOROUGH</b>	....	<b>21.35</b>
England and Wales	....	22.4

Death rate per 1,000 population ;

<b>PETERBOROUGH</b>	....	<b>11.25</b>
England and Wales	....	12.1

Death rate per 1,000 population ;

Diphtheria :—

<b>PETERBOROUGH</b>	....	<b>.05</b>
England and Wales	....	.12

„ Influenza :—

<b>PETERBOROUGH</b>	....	<b>.14</b>
England and Wales	....	.23

„ Tuberculosis :—

### PETERBOROUGH.

(a) Pulmonary	....	....	....	<b>1.09</b>
(b) All forms	....	....	....	<b>1.18</b>

## 2. CAUSES OF DEATH IN PETERBOROUGH, M.B. 1921.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Civilians only. All Causes				186	215	401
1.	Enteric fever	....	....	—	—	
2.	Small pox	....	....	—	—	
3.	Measles	....	....	—	—	
4.	Scarlet fever	....	....	—	—	
5.	Whooping cough		....	—	1	
6.	Diphtheria	....	....	—	2	
7.	Influenza	....	....	2	4	
8.	Encephalitis lethargica		....	2	—	
9.	Meningococcal meningitis			—	—	
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	....	....	26	13	
11.	Other tuberculosis diseases			—	3	
12.	Cancer, malignant disease			24	30	
13.	Rheumatic fever		....	2	1	
14.	Diabetes	....	....	1	5	
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.			10	12	
16.	Heart disease	....	....	20	23	
17.	Arterio-sclerosis		....	6	11	
18.	Bronchitis	....	....	10	16	
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)		....	6	10	
20.	Other respiratory diseases			2	5	
21.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	....	....	1	1	
22.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	....	....	5	7	
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis			2	1	
24.	Cirrhosis of liver		....	1	—	
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis			3	1	
26.	Puerperal sepsis...		....	—	—	
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	....	....	—	3	
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	....	....	15	14	
29.	Suicide	....	....	2	—	
30.	Other deaths from violence			5	7	
31.	Other defined diseases		....	40	44	
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	....	1	1	

2.—continued.

**Infantile Mortality, 1921.****Causes and Age Groups.**

Cause of Death.	Under one week.	Under four weeks.	Remainder of period.	Total Deaths under one year.
Congenital Debility ... ..	1	4	4	9
Malformation ... ..	5	1	1	7
Premature Birth ... ..	10	3	—	13
Marasmus ... ..	—	—	1	1
Convulsions ... ..	—	2	2	4
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	2	5	8
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	3	3
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	4	4
Laryngitis ... ..	—	—	1	1
Other Causes ... ..	2	—	4	6
TOTALS ... ..	19	12	26	57

Infant Mortality Rate.	<b>Peterborough</b>	....	....	<b>76.2</b>
Do.	England and Wales		....	83.







3.—continued.

AGE GROUPS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED  
DURING 1921.

[illegible]

## 5. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District

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### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

#### (a). General.

The local Organisation for the provision of nursing services in the homes of the people is known as The Florence Saunders District Nursing Association, which has been in existence for some 35 years. It is a body supported entirely by voluntary subscription, and has a voluntary executive committee of representative citizens. It is not co-ordinated with the activities of the Local Authority in any shape or form, with the possible proviso that its nurses confine their activities to the line of demarcation of the Borough boundaries, strictly so in the South Ward, where the Fletton nursing arrangements meet this organisation's; in the North and environs the same strictness of boundary line is not observed.

### MIDWIVES.

The County Council is the supervisory authority for this service. There were three midwives practising in the City area until nearly the close of the year, when one left the district. Of the two remaining, one is advanced in years and really ought to be on the retired list.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The ISOLATION HOSPITAL, situated in Fengate, just outside the Borough boundary, about a mile east from the centre of the city, contains a total accommodation of 31 beds for the isolation and treatment of infectious diseases.

The hospital is brick built, and consists of an administrative building, and two separate isolation blocks with service buildings, comprising : laundry, disinfecting rooms, mortuary, coach house, etc.

The water supply is from the town main, and the drainage is into the Borough sewers.

The hospital is at present lighted by gas, but it is hoped that electricity may be installed at no very distant date.

The grounds provide room for any extensions of the hospital, either temporary or permanent, considered necessary in future.

THE SMALL POX HOSPITAL is located about a mile East of the Isolation Hospital, and is maintained in readiness for use if required by the provision of a resident caretaker.

Fortunately, the necessity for putting this hospital into commission did not arise during 1921.

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## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Centre.		Situation.	By whom provided.
Queen Street	...	Queen Street Fire Station	Maternity and Child Welfare Committee
New England	...	St. Paul's Church Hall	Do.
Eastgate ...	...	Wesley Hall, Hampden Road	Do.
School Clinic	...	24, Priestgate	City Education Committee



## Isolation Hospital.

### STATISTICAL RETURN FOR 1921.

Disease.		In Hospital 31/12/20	Admitted during 1921	Discharges during 1921	Died during 1921	In Hospital 31/12/21
Scarlet Fever	...	7	80	69		18
Diphtheria	...	1	26	24	3	
Other Diseases	...					
Totals	...	8	106	93	3	18

The above return includes three cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria from Old Fletton Urban District.

Also five cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria from Peterborough Rural District.

The average stay in hospital for scarlet fever (Borough cases only)                      ....                      ....                      ....                      ....                      35.1

For diphtheria                      ....                      ....                      ....                      35.33

Cases of diphtheria are not discharged from the hospital until two consecutive throat swabs prove negative.

## Ambulance Facilities.

### (a). For Infectious Cases.

A horse ambulance is provided and maintained by the City Council at the Isolation Hospital for the removal of fever cases from home to hospital.

**(b). For General and Accident Cases.**

A motor ambulance of Napier type, gifted in 1919 to the Corporation by a munificent citizen, is available for this service at the City Fire Station.

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**6. Public Health Laboratory.**

A Public Health laboratory was commenced at the City Health Office, on the 11th August, 1921, and a circular letter sent to the medical practitioners as to the facilities of the work pertaining to a municipal borough, viz :—

Swabs from cases or suspected cases of Diphtheria.

Swabs or c.s. fluid from suspected cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Diagnosis of Enteric and allied groups of Fevers including Dysentery.

Suspected cases of food poisoning.

Hairs for Ringworm.

The number of examinations carried out by the Medical Officer from 11th August to 31st December, 1921, were :—

	31	Throat swabs
	25	Hairs for Ringworm
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Total -	56	
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**LIST OF ADOPTED ACTS. (PUBLIC HEALTH).**

	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 ....	31st Dec., 1889
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 ....	24th Nov., 1890
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ....	24th Nov., 1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892 ....	June, 1896
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,	
Sections 78, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 86 ....	30th July, 1908
Parts II., III., IV., V., VI., and X. ....	16th Dec., 1908

## Health Visitor's Report for 1921.

(February - December).

Number of first visits	...	...	...	548
„ Return visits under 1 year	...	...	...	599
„ „ over 1 year	...	...	...	2
„ Visits to still-births	...	...	...	26
„ „ Cases of Infant Mortality	...	...	...	14
„ „ Ante natal cases	...	...	...	34
Total number of visits paid				1,223
Number of visits unpaid	...	...	...	199
„ Notified Births	...	...	...	747
„ Un-notified Births	...	...	...	14
„ Refused advice	...	...	...	3
„ Died before visit	...	...	...	20
„ Wrong addresses given	...	...	...	19

	At first visit.	At 3 months.	At 6 months.
Babies breast fed entirely	397	120	53
„ „ „ partly	30	41	23
Artificially fed in the following manner:—			
Hygienic Bottles	102	71	35
Long Tube Bottles	14	6	2
Medicine Bottles...	5	8	6
Glaxo	36	71	36
Milk and Water diluted	16	8	—
Infants sleeping alone	106	103	41
Transferred from other Areas	—	13	—
„ to „ „	—	10	—

## Clinics, 1921.

Centre.	Total on books.	New cases under 1 year.	Ditto over 1 year.	Total attendances.	Doctors' consultations.
Queen Street	104	83	12	1104	475
Eastgate	42	33	3	411	94
New England	83	46	10	863	356
Ante natal	—	—	—	17	17
Mothercraft	45	—	—	490	—
	274	172	25	2885	952



## **7. Sanitary Administration.**

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The work of the Sanitary Department during the year is detailed in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report which is appended.

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## **8. Public Health Staff.**

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The Public Health Officers of the Council consist of the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and an Assistant Sanitary Inspector, all of whom are whole-time Officers.

There are Exchequer grants on the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Food Inspector.

There is a full-time Lady Health Visitor who possesses the qualifications detailed in the list of the Public Health Staff in the preface.

The School Nurse is also whole time.

The Hospital Staff consists of a Matron, a Charge Nurse, a Staff Nurse, and three Assistant Nurses, with the domestic staff and Porter.



## 9. Housing Conditions.

### Statistics.

Year ended 31st December, 1921.

#### 1.—GENERAL.

Number of inhabited houses ... ..	9294
Number of new houses erected during 1921	
(a) Total ... ..	38
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	35

#### 2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

##### I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	961
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...	158
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ...	15

##### II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	432
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### III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

#### A.—*Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909.*

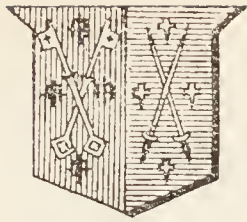
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	83
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners ... ..	56
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... .	Nil

#### B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	376	
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) by owners ... ..	349	20 pending
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil	

#### C.—*Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ..	
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil



CITY & BOROUGH OF PETERBOROUGH.

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II.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

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J. L. SEDEN, Cert. R. San. I.





Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Broadway,  
1922.

To the

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1921, this being my eleventh annual report.

For ease of comparison the report is built up on similar lines to its predecessors.

Throughout the year a systematic inspection of the District has been maintained and necessary steps taken to secure the abatement of any nuisances discovered. Details of routine work are set out in the report following, under their respective heads, but much work done cannot be tabulated or classified.

### **Inspections, Notices, Complaints.**

INSPECTIONS.—Total, 2,419. Re-visits, 1,056.

NOTICES.—Three Statutory and 159 Informal Notices were sent under the Public Health Acts.

Fifteen Statutory Notices under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919, were issued.

Certain work was done in the early part of the year by the Council in default under the Housing Acts and P.H.A.A. Act, 1907. The account was subsequently paid by the owner.

COMPLAINTS.—186 were formally received. Action was taken in 150 cases.

### House Inspections.

961 inspections of houses were made, at 158 of which the formalities necessary under the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, were complied with. At 349 houses defects were remedied under the Public Health Acts, and repairs were carried out at 56 houses under the Housing Act, and at 27 work is outstanding at the end of the year.

### Nuisances Abated and Sanitary Defects Remedied.

Drains cleared, cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	59
Drains partly relaid	...	...	...	46
Stoneware gully traps fixed in place of defective " D " traps	...			32
New ventilating shafts fixed, or shafts repaired	...	...		11
New W.C. pans and traps, or pans only fixed	...	...		43
W.C.'s cleared or pans cleansed	...	...	...	8
W.C. apartments repaired, reconstructed or limewashed	...			47
New W.C. apartments and pans and traps fixed	...	...		4
Flushing cisterns adjusted	...	...	...	47
New flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	8
Window frames repaired, made to open, etc.	...	...	...	69
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	62
Paving repaired or relaid	...	...	...	68
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	80
New sink or baths	...	...	...	5
Rain water pipes and gutters repaired and renewed	...	...	...	64
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	447
TOTAL				1,117

### Infectious Diseases.

91 visits were made respecting 97 cases, and several re-visits. The usual precautionary actions were taken.

Comparison with the ten previous years is as follows :—

1920	—	101	visits	respecting	107	cases.
1919	—	83	„	„	86	„
1918	—	141	„	„	157	„
1917	—	106	„	„	121	„
1916	—	127	„	„	141	„
1915	—	220	„	„	238	„
1914	—	132	„	„	133	„
1913	—	70	„	„	78	„
1912	—	117	„	„	126	„
1911	—	276	„	„	288	„

### Disinfection.

The number of Rooms disinfected is as follows :—

Infectious Disease	...	...	...	103
Phthisis	...	...	...	46
Non-notifiable Diseases...	...	...	...	8
Schools	...	...	...	4
				—
				161
				—

Bedding was removed to the Fever Hospital to be disinfected, from :—

48 houses (after Infectious Disease)	...	487 articles.
26 „ (after Phthisis)	...	328 „
		—
		815
		—

137 articles of bedding, etc. were also removed by request from various houses in the City after non-notifiable diseases. Payment has been made for this work.



The following is a list of all the articles removed :—

Beds...	...	...	...	76
Blankets	...	...	...	200
Pillows	...	...	...	211
Bolsters	...	...	...	63
Mattresses	...	...	...	52
Counterpanes, etc.	...	...	...	61
Palliasses	...	...	...	38
Carpets, etc.	...	...	...	61
Clothing	...	...	...	102
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	88
				—
				952
				—

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

Eight have been on the Register during the year, 2 of which, however, have now practically ceased to take in nightly lodgers, and at one other house the registered occupier died towards the end of the year, since when the premises have been closed. At the commencement of this year 5 houses are in use. 68 visits were paid and 2 cautionary letters sent.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.—The letting of houses within the terms and provisions of these Bye-laws is almost a negligible matter in the District.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

Twenty-three Slaughter-houses were in use and occupation during the year one of which, closed during the war, was re-opened in February and a license granted for the same. Twenty of these licenses are subject to annual renewal. 596 visits were paid and generally speaking the Slaughter Houses were found well managed. Five cautionary letters were sent re nuisances or neglected limewashing. In two or three cases I have had to urge the license holder, where other Butchers are permitted to use his premises, for the purpose of killing, to exercise more personal supervision and to see that no offence against the Bye-laws is committed, or his interests prejudiced.



## Food Inspection.

Systematic attention has been given to this work during the year. The following articles have been surrendered and condemned as unfit for human food.

The carcase and edible offal of—

3 Cows,  $43\frac{3}{4}$ , 44 and 48 Stones respectively.

1 Ox Beast, 44 Stones.

1 side of a Cow and edible offal,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  Stones.

The forequarters of an Ox, Cow, and small Heifer, together with certain edible offal, 28, 28, and 12 Stones respectively.

The hind quarter of an Ox, 15 Stones.

The forequarter of an Heifer,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  Stones.

All of which were affected with Tuberculosis.

1 Barrel Salted Herrings, 3 cwts.

11 Boxes Kippers.

18 stones Gooseberries.

5 (2 dozen) cases frozen rabbits.

35 Pigs Heads.

53 Turkeys.

Various Sundries.

## Bakehouses.

Forty-nine bakehouses are on the Register, 2 of which are temporarily closed. 1 other bakehouse has been closed during the year. 53 visits made. It was not found necessary to serve any notices.

## Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Eighty-four samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, 56 being taken formally and 28 informally.

Detailed particulars are as follows :—

Milk	...	..	...	...	...	47
Butter	...	...	...	...	..	18
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	6
Self-raising Flour	...	...	...	...	...	2
Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tincture of Iodine	..	...	...	..	...	2
Spirit of Nitre	...	...	...	...	...	3
Paregoric	...	...	...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	1
Potted Meat	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/>
						84
						<hr/>

One informal sample of butter was reported to contain 4·4 % excess of water above the maximum limit. A formal sample was subsequently taken from the same vendor and this was reported to contain 5·0 % excess of water. Legal proceedings followed and the vendor was fined 10/-.

Both samples of Potted Meat were reported to contain a very small amount of preservative.

The 47 genuine samples of milk give an average composition as follows :—3·63 Milk Fat, 8·8 Solids not Fat.

All the milk samples and 2 further samples of Cream specially purchased were examined under the MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS and reported to be satisfactory.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.**

Ten Cowkeepers, 11 Milksellers, and 7 Purveyors of Milk are on the Register.—Total, 28.

36 visits paid.

Particulars and remarks are similar to those set out in previous Reports.

## Shop Act, 1912.

41 visits were paid, and only 1 formal complaint was received. It was not found practicable to proceed with the revocation of the Local Closing Order in force, so far as it affects closing at 1 o'clock on the Thursday in Bridge Fair week, to which matter reference was made in my last Report.

## Factory and Workshop Act.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.—Number of Workshops and Workplaces on the Register, 149. 43 visits were paid. Particulars of 5 new Workshops were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and also reports of sanitary defects or nuisances at five Factories or Workshops, all of which matters were attended to after Notice.

OUTWORKERS.—Eight lists were received. Very little outwork within the terms of the Act is done locally.

## Canal Boats and Pleasure Boats.

CANAL BOATS.—52 Boats are on the Register, the majority of which are never met locally. Two Boats have been transferred during the year. Four inspections were made, and no contraventions of the Regulations were found. For several months during the year, owing to the scarcity of water, river traffic was at a standstill.

PLEASURE BOATS.—Licensed, 66. Visits, 69.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. SEDEN,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

